

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-02 INR-07

IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05

NRC-05 /094 W

----- 097715

R 191040Z DEC 75

FM US DEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1372

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS 0185

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKMOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

US DEL SALT TWO GENEVA 0063

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0633

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD DEC 15-19,1975

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE FINAL WEEK OF THE SEVENTH ROUND
OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS WITNESSED THE
FORMAL INTRODUCTION OF THE ALLIED NUCLEAR REDUCTION
PROPOSAL (OPTION III). US REP MADE THE OFFER IN A DEC 16
PLENARY STATEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH NAC-APPROVED GUIDANCE

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WHICH NATO MINISTERS AUTHORIZED DEC 12 FOR USE PRIOR TO

THE WINTER RECESS. AT THE DEC 18 PLENARY MEETING, SOVIET REP KHLESTOV PROVIDED THE FIRST OFFICIAL EASTERN REACTION TO THE NEW WESTERN MOVE. KHLESTOV SAID THAT THE EAST WOULD STUDY THE PROPOSAL. SOVIET REP NOTED THAT THE WEST HAD EMPHASIZED THE ONE-TIME NATURE OF THE PROPOSAL AND THAT IT HAD BEEN PRECEDED BY EXTENSIVE WESTERN PRESS PLAY, INVOLVED ONLY US TACTICAL WEAPONS, WAS CONDITIONED ON EASTERN ACCEPTANCE OF THE WESTERN REDUCTION PROGRAM, AND WOULD NOT PRECLUDE INCREASES IN AIR FORCES AND NUCLEAR DELIVERY SYSTEMS BY NON-US WESTERN

DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. EASTERN COMMENTS ON THE OFFER TO THE PRESS AND IN BILATERAL EXCHANGES WITH WESTERN REPS GENERALLY ECHOED KHLESTOV'S PLENARY REMARKS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING MONTHS OF SPECULATION BY EASTERN REPS HERE

AND IN THE WESTERN PRESS, THE ALLIES THIS WEEK OFFICIALLY ADDED AN OFFER OF US NUCLEAR REDUCTION TO THEIR NEGOTIATING POSITION IN THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION TALKS. US REP FORMALLY MADE THE OFFER TO THE EAST IN A SPECIAL DEC 16 PLENARY MEETING. HIS PRESENTATION FOLLOWED THE NAC-APPROVED GUIDANCE WHICH NATO MINISTERS HAD AUTHORIZED DEC 12 FOR USE PRIOR TO THE END OF THE CURRENT ROUND. US REP EMPHASIZED THAT THE POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL OF 1,000 NUCLEAR WARHEADS, 54 NUCLEAR CAPABLE F-4 AIRCRAFT AND 36 PERSHING BALLISTIC MISSILE LAUNCHERS FROM THE US INVENTORY IN THE REDUCTIONS AREA WAS A UNIQUE OFFER DEPENDENT UPON EASTERN ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS WESTERN PROPOSALS, ALL OF WHICH REMAINED UNCHANGED, THAT IT WAS NOT A STEP TOWARD FURTHER REDUCTIONS AND THAT REDUCTION OF NON-US WESTERN EQUIPMENT WAS NOT INCLUDED IN IT, NOR WOULD LIMITATIONS ON SUCH EQUIPMENT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE WEST. IN CONNECTION WITH THIS INITIATIVE, US REP STATED THAT THE WEST NOW PROPOSED A COMBINED COMMON COLLECTIVE CEILING ON GROUND AND AIR MANPOWER WHICH MIGHT BE SET AT APPROXIMATELY 900,000 MEN ON EACH SIDE. US REP STRESSED THAT THE WEST WAS TAKING THIS INITIATIVE BECAUSE OF THE NEED FOR DECISIVE ACTION TO BREAK THE

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IMPASSE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND MOVE THEM TOWARD THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF A FIRST PHASE AGREEMENT. HIS STATEMENT ENDED WITH AN APPEAL FOR A CONSIDERED AND POSITIVE EASTERN RESPONSE WHEN THE TALKS RESUME FOLLOWING THE WINTER RECESS.

3. AS AGREED BY THE AD HOC GROUP, US REP MET DEC 15 WITH SOVIET REP KHLESTOV TO BRIEF HIM ON THE CONTENTS OF THE

WESTERN NUCLEAR INITIATIVE. WHILE MAINTAINING A
NONCOMMITAL ATTITUDE ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MATTER,
KHLESTOV WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE RELAXED THAN HAD BEEN
THE CASE DURING A DEC 13 SESSION IN WHICH US REP HAD
DISCUSSED WITH HIM ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE
FORMAL INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW ALLIED PROPOSAL.
WE WOULD SPECULATE THAT IN THE INTERIM KHLESTOV HAD
RECEIVED SOME REASSURANCE THAT, AS HE HAD REPEATEDLY
WARNED MIGHT BE THE CASE, MOSCOW WOULD NOT INSTRUCT HIM
TO REJECT THE OFFER OUT OF HAND AS A WESTERN PROPAGANDA
PLOY.

4. SOVIET REP KHLESTOV MADE THE ONLY PRESENTATION AT
THE DEC 18 CONCLUDING PLENARY MEETING OF THE SEVENTH
ROUND. A FEW PARAGRAPHS NEAR THE END OF HIS STATEMENT
PROVIDED THE FIRST OFFICIAL EASTERN REACTION TO THE
ALLIED NUCLEAR INITIATIVE. HE STATED THAT THE EAST,
AS WAS CUSTOMARY IN SUCH CASES, WOULD EXAMINE THE CONTENTS OF THE
PROPOSAL. KHLESTOV OBSERVED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PROPOSAL INCLUDED
ONLY US TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THAT IT WAS CONDITIONED
ON ACCEPTANCE
OF THE WESTERN REDUCTION PROGRAM TO WHICH EASTERN
OBJECTIONS WERE WELL KNOWN. HE NOTED WESTERN EMPHASIS
ON THE ONE-TIME CHARACTER OF THE OFFER AND THAT IT WOULD
NOT LIMIT ACTUAL INCREASES IN AIR FORCES AND NUCLEAR
DELIVERY SYSTEMS. FURTHER, SOVIET REP WONDERED WHAT
CONCLUSIONS SHOULD BE REACHED FROM THE PROLONGED, DETAILED
AND PROPAGANDIST TREATMENT ACCORDED THE MOVE IN THE
WESTERN PRESS GIVEN THE PRACTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY IN
THE NEGOTIATIONS.

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-03

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 NRC-05

ISO-00 /094 W

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R 191040Z DEC 75
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1373
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AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
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AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA
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FROM US REP MBFR

5. THE BALANCE OF SOVIET REP'S STATEMENT CONTAINED A MEASURED CRITICISM OF THE WESTERN POSITION ALONG STANDARD LINES AND SUMMED UP DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE LATEST ROUND. UNDER THE LATTER HEADING, KHLESTOV DWELT ON THE QUESTION OF FORCE DEFINITIONS. HE TERMED RESOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE ESSENTIAL AND FAULTED THE WEST FOR CONTINUING TO RESIST AGREEMENT TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT SIMILAR FORCE TYPES SHOULD BE ALLOCATED TO THE SAME ARMED SERVICE.

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6. AFTER THE DEC 18 PLENARY, THE EAST, WITH CZECHOSLOVAK REP LAHODA AS SPOKESMAN, HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE. HIS PREPARED STATEMENT CONSISTED MAINLY OF A LOW-KEY SYNOPSIS OF KHLESTOV'S EARLIER COMMENTS ON THE ALLIED NUCLEAR PROPOSAL, INCLUDING THE FACT THAT IT WOULD RECEIVE EASTERN STUDY. THE MEETING QUICKLY BROKE UP ONCE NEWSMEN DISCOVERED THAT THEY COULD NOT GET CZECHOSLOVAK REP TO EXPAND ON THE TOPIC.

7. EAST-WEST BILATERAL EXCHANGES DURING THE WEEK WERE SIMILARLY GUARDED. EASTERN REPS GENERALLY CONFINED THEMSELVES TO A RITUAL EXPRESSION OF DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE CONTENTS OF THE NEW WESTERN OFFER, PARTICULARLY ITS US-ONLY AND ONE-TIME ASPECTS. THEY ALSO TENDED TO PLAY UPON THE PRESS-LEAKS-EQUALS-PROPAGANDA-PLOY THEME. BY DEC 18, EASTERN REPS WERE, NEVERTHELESS, ADDING THAT THE INITIATIVE WOULD RECEIVE THOROUGH EXAMINATION.

8. THE VIENNA TALKS ARE SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE THE WEEK
OF JANUARY 26.RESOR

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